

# **IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For release, May 1, 2003**

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

**Richard J. Leth, M.D.**, a 44 year-old physician from Des Moines, Iowa, was charged by the Board with habitual intoxication and the inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety due, to the excessive use of alcohol, and a mental condition. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for May 28, 2003.

**Stephen E. Sparks, M.D.**, a 48 year-old physician from Bloomfield, Iowa, entered into a Settlement Agreement with the Board to resolve pending disciplinary charges. On February 6, 2003, Dr. Sparks was charged with habitual intoxication and the inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety due to the excessive use of alcohol. Under the terms of the Settlement Agreement, Dr. Sparks' Iowa medical license was placed on probation for a period of five (5) years subject to certain terms and conditions.